Classical China

**Shang dynasty** existed before the Zhou dynasty. The Zhou, Qin, and Han were China’s most influenced classic empire. **Zhou dynasty** from 10239BCE to 700BCE, had rich agricultural land, places like the “Middle Kingdom”, an area between Yangtze and Huanghe River. Wheat and rice were the major agriculture crops, promoting population grow. They started linguistic unity by forming a standardized language, Mandarin. Zhou dynasty declined after its decentralized, feudal-like system (Under the king, Aristocrats ruled regions providing troops and taxes) overthrow the emperor. Between 402BCE to 201BCE was known as the Era of the Warring States were people fought for a power. The **Qin dynasty** emerged in 221BCE and lasted till 207BCE. It was leader by the ruthless, Shi Huangdi who used the ideology from **legalism** (lower official/administers) to centralize government. He created many innovations and development. He was the first to construct the **Great Wall** and formed the written element of Mandarin. Huangdi protested against formal culture, burning all of its books. After the Qin dynasty fell, the Han Dynasty came into power from 201BCE -220CE. Following many Qin dynasty ideals and structure, the Han dynasty developed **bureaucracy**, expanding a state functions. Hans were very philosophical. People based their culture and social customs like patriarchal society from **Confucianism** or **Daoism**. It led people to intellectual developments in subjects like astronomy and art. The development of the **Silk Road** and the many other industries gave China wealth and a prosperous economy.